THE ART OF Xotica

ESTEBAN MAROTO

volume one

MARROTTA

Xotica

THE ART OF ESTEBAN MAROTO

AN SQP PRESENTATION

ESTEBAN MAROTO
THE WEAVER OF DREAMS

A line on a piece of paper. Anyone can do it, but only a select few can conjure whole worlds with a few strokes of a pen. Alex Toth, certainly. Joe Kubert, for sure. The list of true illustrative geniuses however is a short one, and only those born with a silver pen in their hand are destined to rise above the rest. For over four decades now, there has been one who can be called the illustrator's illustrator. The gentleman's name is Esteban Maroto, and this book showcases the merest fraction of his abilities!

Born in Madrid, Spain in 1942, Esteban's career began in earnest as he apprenticed in the early 60's under Manuel López Blanco. There, the "Adventures of the F.B.I." served as a springboard, enabling the young Maroto to create his own studio, and get involved in the burgeoning British comic market. Within a few short years, Esteban was both writing and illustrating stories that took full advantage of his outstanding abilities. Like the similar revolution that was taking place at Marvel Comics in the late sixties, the artist was becoming a bigger star than the character he was illustrating, and Maroto was on the fast track to stardom!

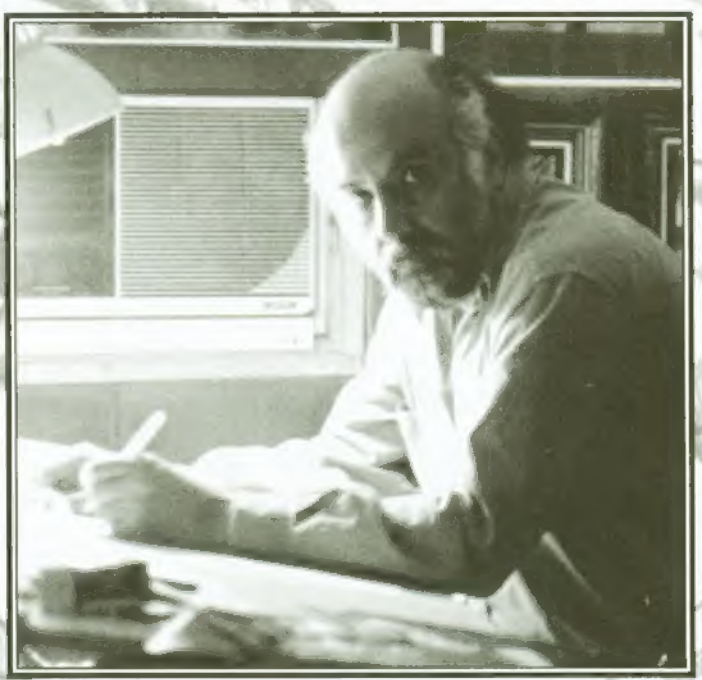
Esteban's United States introduction came via two horrific hosts and a voluptuous vampire! In the pages of CREEPY, EERIE, and VAMPIRELLA, Maroto's work was seen by thousands of new readers hungry to experience the lush, dream-like quality of this amazing new imported talent! He's displayed that talent at DC, Marvel, Topps, Verotik, and Penthouse Comix.

As popular as he is with his fans worldwide, it is with his fellow artists that Esteban often receives his highest accolades. When Neal Adams and Berni Wrightson helped assemble the Academy of Comic Book Arts back in the Seventies, the very first award for best foreign artist went to Esteban Maroto.

The artist credits his own work to the tradition of the great Castilian illustrators of history, whose disciplines stressed the importance of drawing figures in motion, and maintaining a balance of technique and aesthetic harmony.

The lessons learned have served him well, as Esteban envisions the coming new millennium, and the vast work that lies before him. Eminently approachable and helpful to young artists, he is the very definition of a gentleman, warm and generous and deeply committed to his art. His lovely wife Carmen, and their beautiful daughters Gemma and Laura are perhaps his most successful works to date.

As stated before, this volume can only begin to display the talents of a man who can turn line into life. He is a spinner of tales. A forger of fantasy. A weaver of dreams.



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A special thanks to Carmen, Gemma, and Laura Maroto, for their invaluable help in assembling this book.
A very special thanks to the man who made this volume possible in the first place - our good friend Esteban!

SAL QUARTUCCIO *BOB KEENAN*

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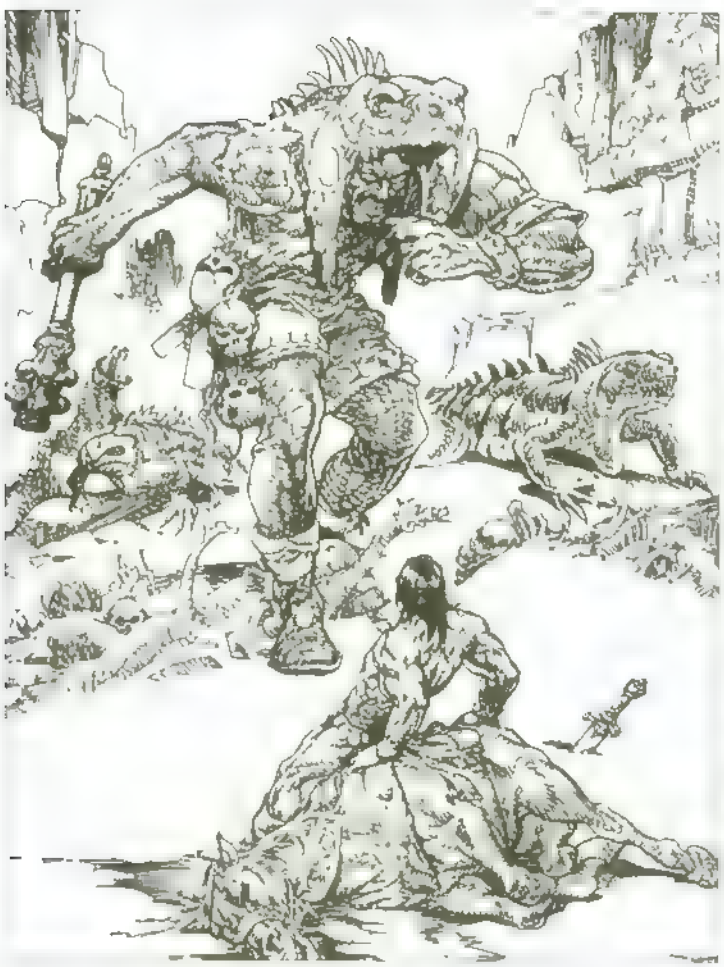

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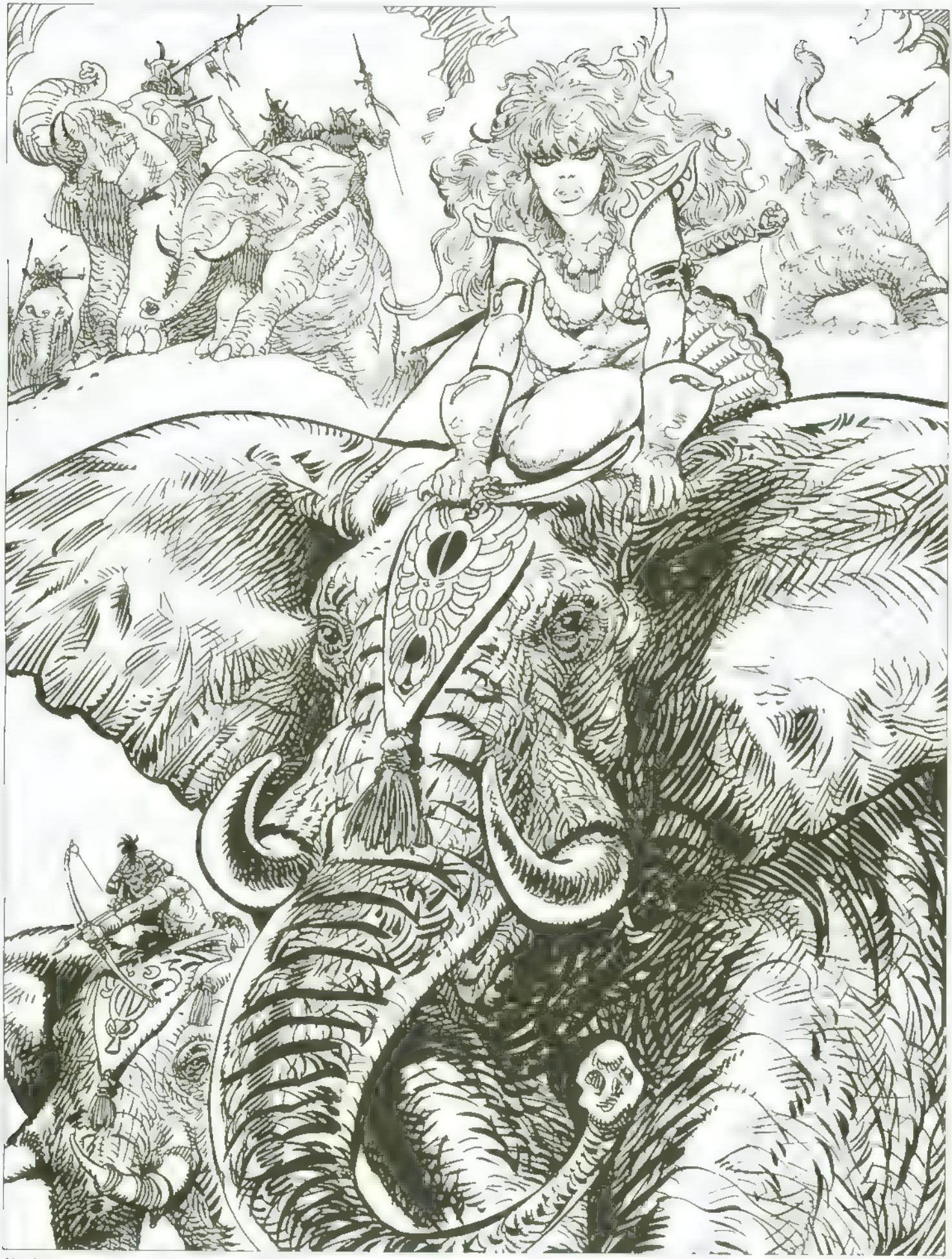

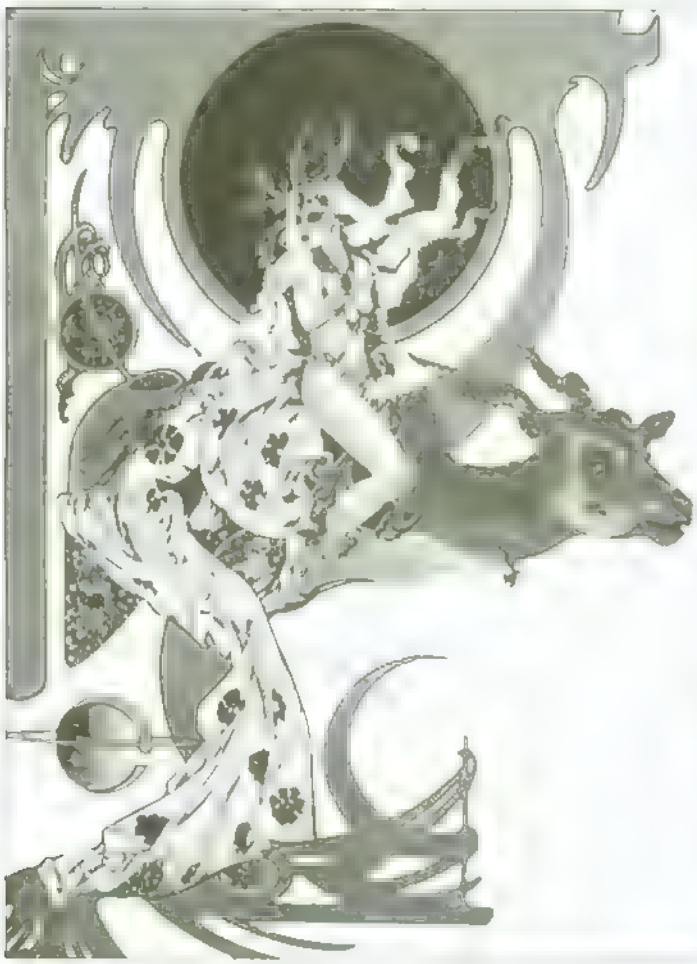

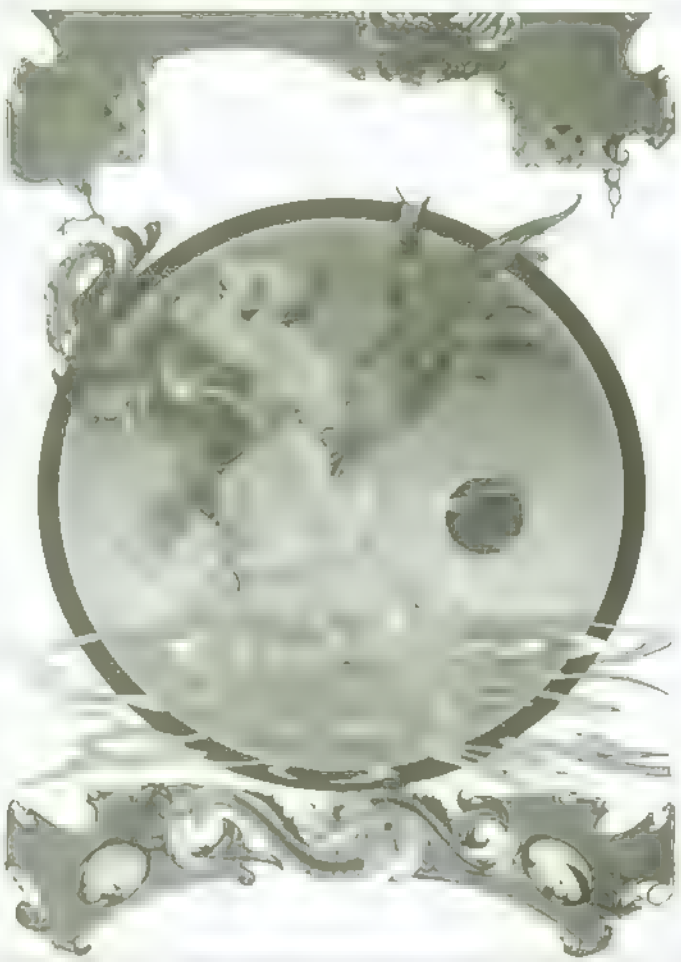

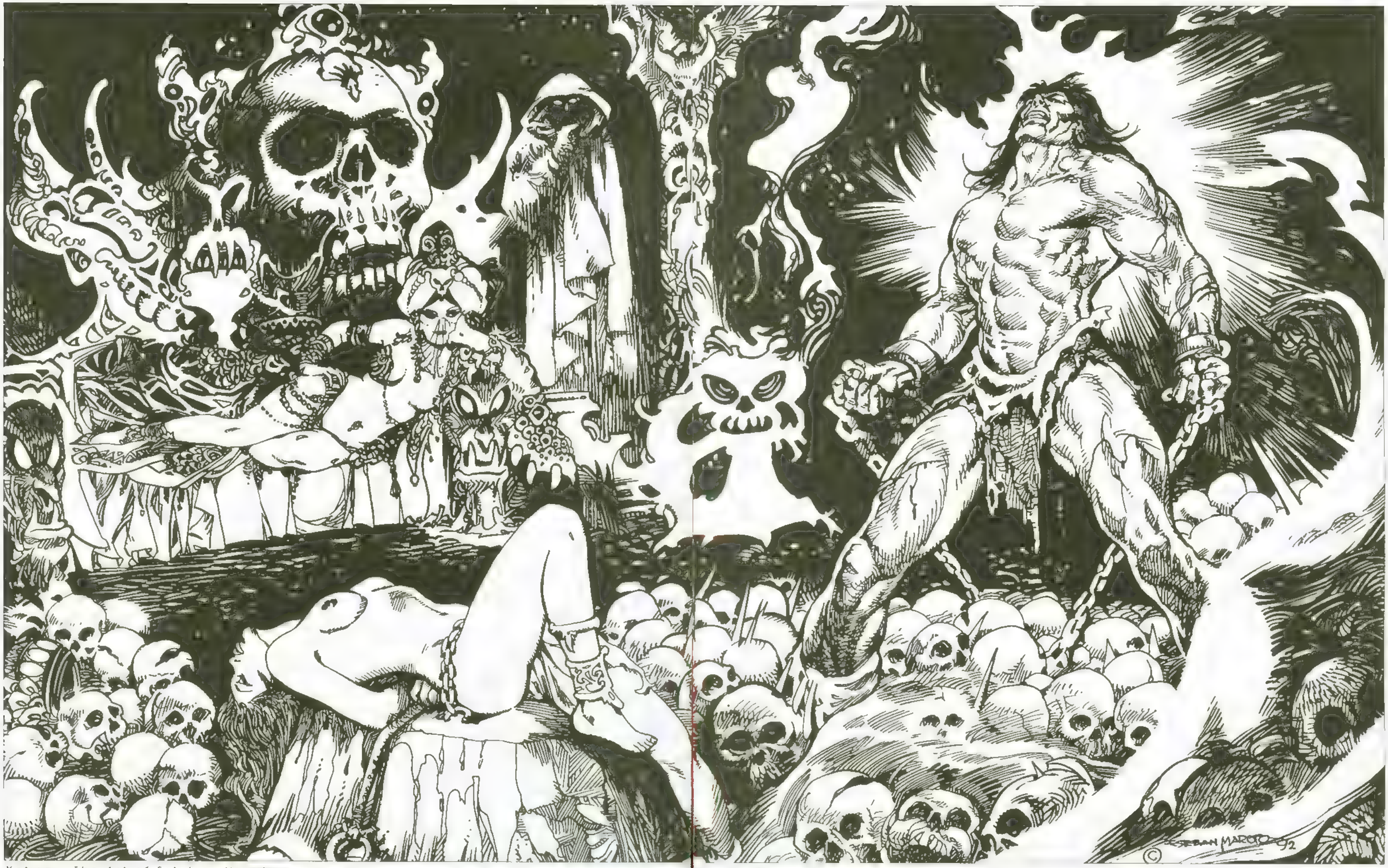
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